

FALL 2014

Adopt-a-Village International



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Our Mission:

The mission of Adopt-a-Village International (AaVI) is to partner with strategic leaders in developing countries to provide sustainable improvements in the basic human needs of impoverished villages. We accomplish this by providing a hand up, not a handout, to break the cycle of poverty.

Board of Directors:

Maggie Adams-Holway, *Chair*
Scott Perry, *Secretary*
Karen Mitchell, *Treasurer*
Mark Backlin
Sam Erickson
Darrell Fleck
Joe Mitchell
Laura Peterson
Dave Ruckman
Karen Yuan

Message from the Chair

2014 has presented AaVI with many successes, challenges, and some losses. We lost one of our greatest supporters and dear friend, Dr. Roger Allan, we have completed a number of important projects, and we have struggled to keep up with changing requirements that allow us to work in South America. We also completed two successful fundraisers bringing in over \$13,000! THANKS to all of you who helped us continue to help those less fortunate in these developing countries! Without your support we could not execute fresh water, medical, dental, education, and micro-business projects in the more remote villages in Ecuador and Peru. We have much more work ahead of us and are looking forward to planning and executing many new projects in 2015.

We added a new Board member this year – Welcome Aboard Laura Peterson! Laura has jumped in and taken on the daunting task of re-hosting our website – check it out, but bear with us as we continue to update and improve it.

- Maggie Adams-Holway

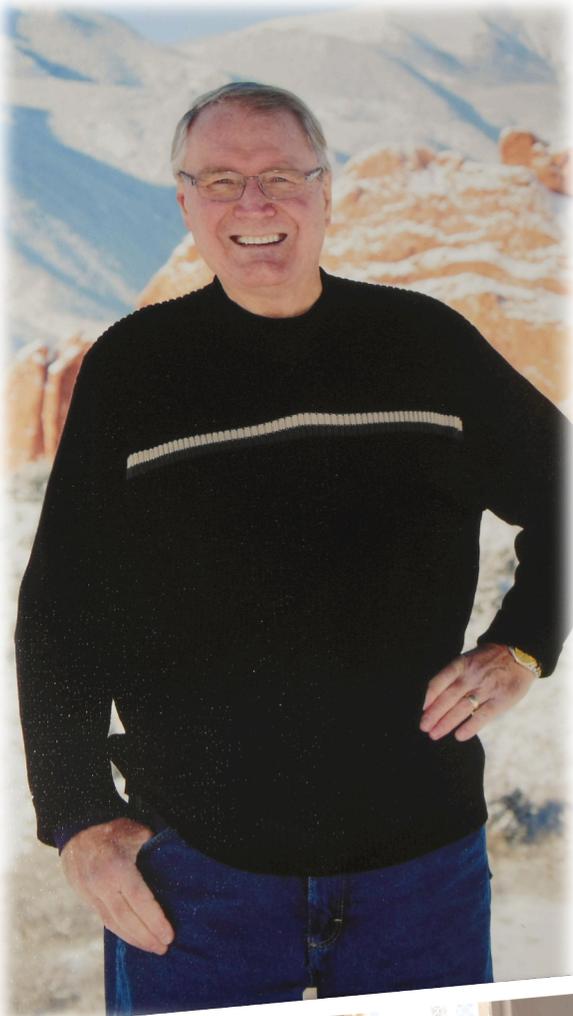
If you or anyone you know might be interested in becoming a member of our board, volunteering time/skills, joining us on a trip, or donating to help us fulfill our mission, please contact us at: info@adoptavillageinternational.org or by phone at (719) 492-8736.

P.O. Box 26599, Colorado Springs, CO 80936
www.adoptavillageinternational.org 719.492.8736

In Memory Of A Dear Friend...

In April, Adopt-a-Village International lost an amazing dentist, wonderful humanitarian and dear friend. Dr. Roger Allan served as the lead dentist on numerous trips to both Peru and Ecuador, and it was Roger's vision and leadership that led to the founding of AaVI's first permanent dental clinic in the village of San Juan, Ecuador. He inspired all of us through his dedication to bringing dental health and education to the people of Ecuador and Peru.

Roger was one of the founders of AaVI, and was an active member of the North Colorado Springs Rotary Club for several decades. Above all, Roger was a role model and a dear friend to many and he is and always will be greatly missed.





Hosting a Party While Doing Some Good

- by Darrell Fleck

As you can see from some of the pictures, my wife Kim is an avid gardener. Living in Colorado does present challenges such as bunnies and big rats (you may know them as deer). These challenges have forced her to hide the fruits of her love in our fenced, rat proof, and almost 100% bunny proof back yard. Over the last few years we have had a number of excuses to host large gatherings in our yard, from weddings to graduations, and with Kim's efforts as a backdrop, it is impossible to throw a bad party.

As a member of the board of AaVI we are constantly challenged, with finding ways to raise money, as 100% of our income comes from individuals and corporations donation of time, money and product. All of us are involved with charitable work in one way or another, and thus face the same dilemma, our helping others is limited only by our ability to raise capital, be it labor, money or product.

With that in mind, and always up for a party, Kim and I had the privilege of hosting more than 60 friends and friends of friends at what will hopefully be the first annual AaVI garden party. A distributor, who wishes to remain nameless but certainly not forgotten for their totally unselfish and gracious donation, donated fifty bottles of wonderful wine. *Food Designers*, a wonderful local caterer who we have used in the past, reduced their bill by 33% while

providing an absolutely delicious spread from Beef Lavosh to Cheesecake Lollipops! *Colorado Mountain Brewery* donated a pony keg of their custom brew to satisfy the non-wine drinkers. And, just in case of rain, *Bruno's Rentals* provided a tent, tables, and linen at a 50% discount.

The best part of it all was being able to enjoy all of our friends and guests who are now friends. We had a Sawyer water filter system on display, and all learned how it worked as 7-year-old Anushka studied and then presented the system to all of the guests. Check out the picture of her presenting to the crowd.

Joe Mitchell, a founder of AaVI, spoke for a few moments about the condition of the 3rd world, and the endless needs, but also shared how more people have access to clean water and basic medical care, resulting in a significant drop in childhood deaths. Our efforts along with efforts of many from around the world is making a difference, and if you ever are able to go on a trip with AaVI, you will forever feel the difference you are making, whether you are giving your time, product, or hard earned dollar.

A matching challenge donation of \$4,000 was offered that night, leading to over \$13,000 being raised in one night from a wonderful group of friends with a great reason to party!

What's Happening in Ecuador?

Quite a bit! Mark Backlin and Mario Carrasco have had their hands full planning and carrying out projects and clinics. Just recently a team of 75 medical and dental professionals and volunteers completed a medical project in two locations in the Galapagos Islands (see update below).

In July, the AaVI Board approved \$4,000 for the purchase of two additional portable dental units and related supplies. Mark and Mario have secured a permanent storage facility for equipment and supplies that will improve efficiencies and logistics going forward.

In early August, they made a follow up visit to a rural community near the jungle city of Tena. Community needs are still being assessed and prioritized but we are hoping to officially adopt this village soon!

Our success is predicated to a great degree on our ability to seek out, develop and maintain partnerships with organizations, medical schools and universities and government at all levels. We are pleased to have ongoing relationships with the Ecuadorian Air Force (transportation), CIMAS, the Ministry of Health, Project C.U.R.E. and numerous Rotary Clubs just to name a few.

In October, Mark and Mario will make a follow-up visit to the village of Calamaca, which is located high in the hills above the city of Ambato. This is one of the first villages we adopted and we are interested in seeing how the water and sanitation projects we implemented are performing. Mark and Mario will also be visiting Riobamba to explore possible projects there.

Update From Ecuador...

From 29 August to 6 September AaVI performed a medical project on San Cristobal Island in the Galapagos. This mission involved 75 volunteers and treated over 1,000 patients in the areas of ophthalmology, cardiology, dentistry, and general medicine. Additionally, in cooperation with the Catholic University of Cuenca over 500 children were instructed in proper hygiene and dental care. Thank you to the Ecuador Air Force for use of their C130 aircraft, the Ecuador Air Force medics, Catholic University of Cuenca medical and dental schools, our USA medical professionals and volunteers, Metropolitano Hospital in Quito, the Quito Rotary Club (Equiniccio), the University of Latin America, Cruz Azul pharmacies of Ecuador, and the Ecuadorian Ministry of Health for making this trip a great success!



New Water Treatment Systems in Peru

Thanks to the dedication and fundraising efforts of Hannah Mitchell, a high school student from Colorado Springs, AaVI successfully funded a permanent water treatment system (WTS) in the village of Timicurillo, Peru in 2013. Working alongside our in-country partner, CONAPAC, AaVI sponsored another WTS this year in the nearby village of Jorge Chavez. This village is situated on an island in the Amazon River, making access to clean water very difficult for its residents. The new WTS was completed in July and the training workshops for the villagers were held in mid-August. The community of Jorge Chavez has invested time and money to ensure that their WTS was constructed properly and will continue to maintain it, with the help of representatives from CONAPAC.

It is the hope of AaVI to fund similar projects along the Amazon River each year. Permanent water treatment systems, such as the ones we have sponsored in Timicurillo and Jorge Chavez, cost \$12,000 each, and the benefit to the families in such villages is priceless. Won't you help bring clean water to the people along the Amazon River?



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AaVI is going GREEN

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gogreen@adoptavillageinternational.org



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PO Box 26599

Colorado Springs, CO 80936